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April 3, 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
Analysis

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J. Edgar Hoover
DIRECTOR

FBI review(s)
completed.

COMMUNIST PARTY, USAMay Day

Marx' slogan, "Workingmen of all countries, unite!" and the theory of international solidarity of the working class still have tremendous influence on the activities of the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA). Thus, each year the CPUSA makes elaborate plans for May Day, which is observed as Labor Day in the Soviet Union and other countries. The Party is already making preparations for this year and its Organization and Education Department has issued a memorandum on May Day celebrations for 1963, in which May Day is described as the historic day of international labor solidarity.

Peace and Peaceful Coexistence

This year the CPUSA is emphasizing the Soviet theme of peace and peaceful coexistence for May Day. While peace is a universal desire of all men, it may be difficult for the Party to convince workers in industry that it is "the over-all central issue" for a day allegedly devoted to the interests of labor. Nevertheless, Party members are urged to press forward demands for universal disarmament, for a German peace treaty, for an end to the cold war for an end to the war in South Viet-Nam, for immediate cessation of thermo-nuclear tests, and for a policy of "hands off Cuba." Showing no favoritism, the Party has instructed its forces to criticize the Administration for its "aggressive" policies in South Viet-Nam and Cuba and to "expose" the adventurous and provocative policies of the "ultra-Right" forces, the "Goldwater wing" of the Republican Party, the "Rockefeller-Keating wing" of the Republican Party, and the "Thurmond-Stennis Dixiecrat wing" of the Democratic Party.

Defense of the Party

Once the Party had clearly demonstrated its support of communist causes in various parts of the world, it would have seemed logical for it to follow with its demands for labor. However, in the memorandum for May Day 1963, the CPUSA next gives priority to its efforts to set aside Federal legislation pertaining to subversive activities. Party members are told to wage a fight against and to call for the nullification and repeal of the Internal Security Act of 1950. They are exhorted to solicit support for the Party.

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General Secretary Gus Hall, National Secretary Benjamin J. Davis, and other defendants in prosecutive actions against the CPUSA. Ignoring Hungary and the suppression of freedom in other communist countries, the CPUSA reminds its members to stress at all times the Party's contention that there is a relationship between the defense of communists and the issue of democracy for all Americans.

Domestic Issues

After disposing of issues of importance to the Party, the authors of the memorandum for May Day, 1963, turn their attention to immediate demands for the workers. However, support of international communism and the theme of peaceful coexistence are woven into these issues. For example, the Party membership is instructed to demand that unemployment be reduced by the development of a peace economy and by increased trade with communist countries. Other demands for labor include the adoption of the 35-hour week with no reduction in pay, a minimum wage of \$1.50 per hour, and job security from the effects of automation. The memorandum also states that it is essential to warn the labor movement by leaflets, speeches, and in other ways of the danger of new antiunion and antilabor legislation and to urge united and militant action for the defeat of these measures. For other elements of the population, the Party demands a personal income tax exemption of \$1,000 per year, passage of "Medicare," and a "Presidential proclamation ending Jim Crow."

Organizational Measures

Leaving nothing to chance, the Party directive contains instructions for the May Day celebrations. The members are told to arrange meetings on a united front basis, irrespective of the auspices. Where public meetings are not possible, house meetings and other forms of celebration are to be undertaken. The National Office of the CPUSA is issuing a leaflet which can be duplicated by the various districts. Also suggested is the issuance of a leaflet in the Spanish language. The May Day celebrations are to be used to promote the sale of a special edition of the east coast communist newspaper, "The Worker"; CPUSA National Chairman Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's new book, "The Alderson Story"; and Hall's pamphlet, "The Only Choice--Peaceful Co-existence."

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FBI Current Intelligence Analysis

Union Square Rally

Archetype for all CPUSA May Day celebrations is the annual rally in New York City. The March 26, 1963, midweek edition of "The Worker" stated that delegates "representing working-class groups" met on March 23, 1963, and endorsed a May Day rally to be held at Union Square in New York City. "The Worker" neglected to say that the New York State Board of the CPUSA had instructed that a representative from each CP club attend this meeting. According to "The Worker," the meeting was addressed by Ben Luberoff, a rank-and-file painter, who was elected as executive secretary of the 1963 May Day Committee. "The Worker" did not mention that, in addition to being a painter, Benjamin Luberoff is a member of the CPUSA and that he has attended meetings of the District Committee, Industrial Division, and Press Commission of the New York District of the CPUSA.

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Remarks:

1-4. Please look into the matter raised in para 2, and contact Mr Kirkpatrick when you are ready to brief him. Please keep Mr Sheldon informed. pw

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